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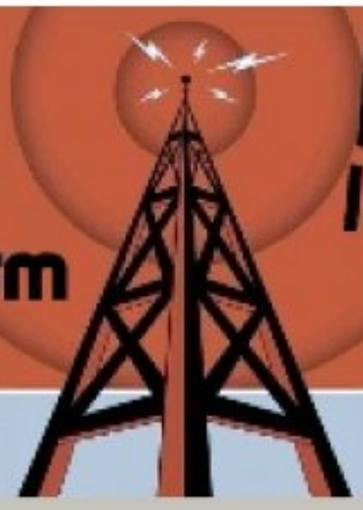

Ottawa metro

Your essential daily news | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

High 1°C/Low -12°C Chance of flurries

METRO MONDAY POLL
Tuition should be free for all students

metroVIEWS

The fires caused significant damage to a home on Walkley Road and another home on Leitrim Road.
PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT STILLBORN/OTTAWA FIRE SERVICES

INVESTIGATION, CHASE, ARREST,

Senior in custody in connection with two house fires Sunday, police say metroNEWS

'We were blindsided,' parent says

SCHOOL BOARD

Petition launched over kindergarten class move

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A petition asking the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to reverse a decision to move kindergarten classes out of a downtown public school has already received 85 signatures since launching last week.

"We were blindsided by the change," said parent Miriam Padolsky.

Padolsky's 3-year-old son is one of the approximately 117 students affected by the change — the family lives a couple blocks from Elgin Street Public School and was registered to attend next year.

That's set to change after a decision by the board to transfer all kindergarten students to Centennial Public School, located 12 blocks west.

Trustee Erica Braunovan said it's meant as a temporary measure to deal with severe overcrowding. Elgin Street Public School is expected to be at 145 per cent capacity in 2016. Braunovan said moving the youngest students will give the board more time to study a long-term solution and could be reversed in three to five years.

Originally parents were informed that the school was considering moving the small English-language program out of Elgin Street. A second proposal would be to change the boundary lines for the school.

Last week a third option — moving kindergarten classes temporarily — was introduced and approved at a board meeting.

"Yes there were public consultations but they were consulting on these two others options and we didn't know we were affected," said Padolsky. "I understand something needs to be done, but you need to do it in a fair manner."

Padolsky and a group of other concerned parents are asking the board to reverse the decision at a board meeting scheduled for Tuesday night. She said she would prefer to see one of the two other options imposed.

Braunovan said while she sympathizes with the parents, the board had few options.

"We had a short time frame to make a decision," she said. "The parent council put together a submission saying that they had consulted with the community and the temporary JK/SK relocation was confirmed."

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Feds to review convictions of gay men made before homosexual acts were decriminalized. **Canada**

Students look to 'sugar daddies'

EDUCATION

Users of site are hoping to graduate without debt

A growing number of Canadian students are adding a little sugar to their lives with a website which pairs "sugar babies" with "sugar daddies and mommies."

Called SeekingArrangements.com, the site markets itself to college and university students as a way to graduate school without any student loan debt.

Brook Urick, the public relations manager for the site, said it's a win-win; the students get a benefactor and a chance to graduate debt free. Sugar daddies get an upfront, honest relationship with no strings attached.

While the site aims to register students as sugar babies, suggesting it can help pay for school, there is no requirement that they be students.

The website was founded in 2006.

According to the website operator, there are five million people subscribed around the world. In Canada, it claims there are 416,715 sugar babies — and of those, 156,715 are registered in college or university.

Students who register for the site with their university email address can do so for free.

Signing up is very similar to a regular dating profile. The only difference for sugar babies is you have to select an assistance level — it can be negotiable, from around $1,000 a month, up to more than $10,000.

Sugar daddies and mommas have to enter their income level when they register.

SeekingArrangements.com claims that 156,715 college and university students in Canada are signed up as sugar babies.

A second-year Carleton University student, who used the pseudonym Katelyn to keep her identity private, joined the site when she found herself struggling to find a way to stay in school.

The 28-year-old was recently separated. She found herself in a tough situation at the beginning of the school year because she didn't work — her fiancée supported them before the split.

Katelyn called the Ontario Student Assistance Program, "a joke," and needed a way to pay her bills and stay in school.

Katelyn had been on the site prior to her relationship with her fiancée.

"I was sitting around thinking about what to do and it occurred to me to sign back up," she said.

Right now Katelyn sees two men from the site. One pays an allowance of $1,100 and the other has a budget of $1,000 each month to take her out to activities she wouldn't be able to afford on her own.

Rebecca Bromwich, an instructor in legal studies at Carleton University, said she wonders if the girls — and the sugar daddies — know what they're getting into.

She said while the site doesn't explicitly spell out that sex acts are traded for money, it may be tough for some girls to get help from the law if an interaction goes wrong — because at the core the whole thing is an illegal arrangement.

"They might not understand that that's what they're agreeing to," she said of sugar babies.

Bromwich said sugar daddies might also end up left out in the cold.

"If something goes south they would want to share liability with the website, but it wouldn't be possible," she said.

Urick said people using SeekingArrangements.com are seeking meaningful relationships. She added that those relationships sometimes include romantic intimacy, but just as often do not.

The site takes many measures both internally and externally to prevent the terms of use being violated, Urick said.

JEN MCINTOSH / METROLAND MEDIA

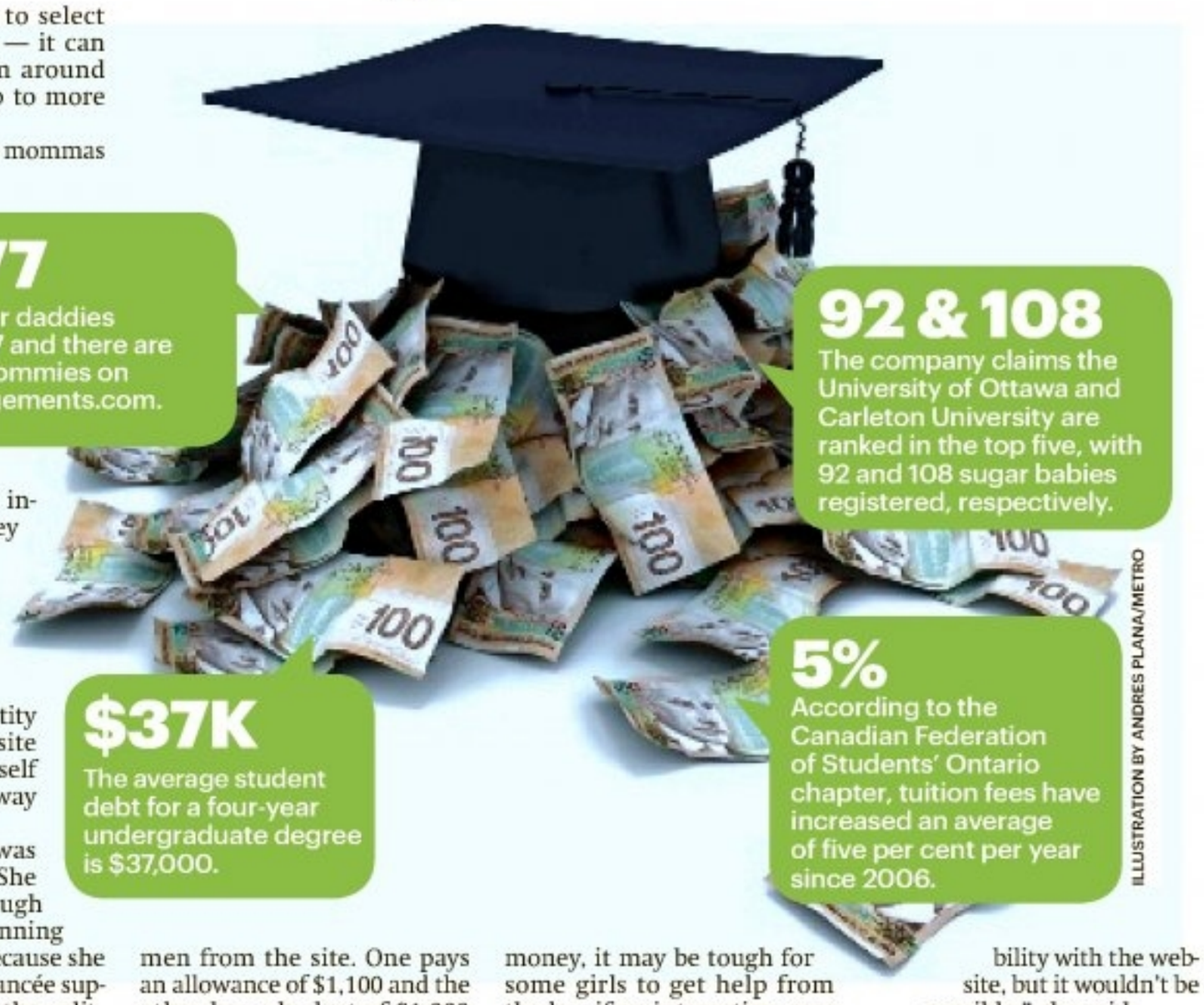
50,477
Canadian sugar daddies number 50,477 and there are 3,265 sugar mommies on SeekingArrangements.com.
92 & 108
The company claims the University of Ottawa and Carleton University are ranked in the top five, with 92 and 108 sugar babies registered, respectively.
$37K
The average student debt for a four-year undergraduate degree is $37,000.
5%
According to the Canadian Federation of Students' Ontario chapter, tuition fees have increased an average of five per cent per year since 2006.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRES PLANA/METRO

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CRIME

Senior arrested for arson

A 78-year-old man is in custody after a highway chase connected him to two Sunday house fires, police say.

The two arsons caused "substantial damage" to two east-end homes on Walkley and Leitrim roads. There were no injuries.

The first fire broke out just after 9 a.m. at 1248 Walkley Rd. near the Jim Durell Recreation Centre. As the bungalow's windows blew out from the pressure, an investigator was called in, according to fire spokesperson Danielle Cardinal. A man was seen leaving the area in a van, police said in a statement. It was later declared an arson.

At 12:45 p.m. neighbours reported another blaze at 4100 Leitrim Rd. near Ramsayville Road, north of Greely. With the home fully involved, firefighters declared it a second-alarm fire.

While they were able to keep it from spreading to other parts of the property — a large detached garage and several derelict vehicles in the yard — "extreme fire conditions" forced firefighters out of the building around 1:20 p.m., Cardinal said.

Tequila the German Shepherd was later rescued from a nearby field without injuries, she added.

According to police, the suspect didn't stop for police Sunday afternoon, causing them to chase him down Highway 417 before arresting him near Pinecrest Road.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Arson Unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 3770.

It was a busy day for the fire department, which also responded to a house fire on Booth Street and chimney fire in Dunrobin on Sunday. Kanata's Canadian Tire Centre also had a malfunctioning heating unit on the roof that crews helped to air out, and the 10:30 a.m. performance of Disney on Ice was slightly delayed. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Councillor eyes fix for troubling intersection

SOMERSET

Confusion at Slater and Elgin caused by design flaw

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney says she'll take a closer look at one of downtown Ottawa's worst pedestrian intersections.

Slater Street at Elgin had five pedestrian collisions between 2010 and 2014, tying it for third place in Centretown, behind Bank at Gloucester streets and Bank at Laurier Avenue, the city said.

And going back to 2004, there have been 12 pedestrian collisions there, according to data from Citizens for Safe Cycling.

Citywide, the intersection is middle of the pack for brush-ups between drivers and hoofers. Rideau Street is far more dangerous for people crossing the road, and even intersections further west, like Churchill Avenue at Richmond Road see more problems overall.

What makes Slater at Elgin uniquely treacherous, though, is the configuration of the National Arts Centre parking garage entrance, which runs off Slater in the middle of the intersection.

Some northbound drivers don't realize they have to heed the red light before they turn right. Instead they blow right over the busy Elgin crosswalk, even as the signal tells people they can go.

Last week, a confused driver honked at a senior who had the right of way.

McKenney blamed the intersection's design and said she'll ask staff this week to see if better signage might help drivers negotiate the juncture.

In general, McKenney said she has been pressing staff to install advance pedestrian signals at busy intersections. These give walkers a four- or five-second head start on turning cars, and can make a huge difference to safety, especially when cars can't turn right on a red.

"When you have that kind of restriction it calms everyone," McKenney said.

She said complaints about the intersection of Preston and Somerset streets have gone down since the technology was installed.

GUNS AND GANGS UNIT SHOOTING IN WESTBORO

Police say a Selby Avenue resident woke up to the sound of breaking glass early Sunday morning in what is now the city's 12th shooting of the year. The Westboro home's front window was pierced with bullet holes as police found spent bullet casings nearby. The Ottawa Police Guns and Gangs Unit is investigating.
EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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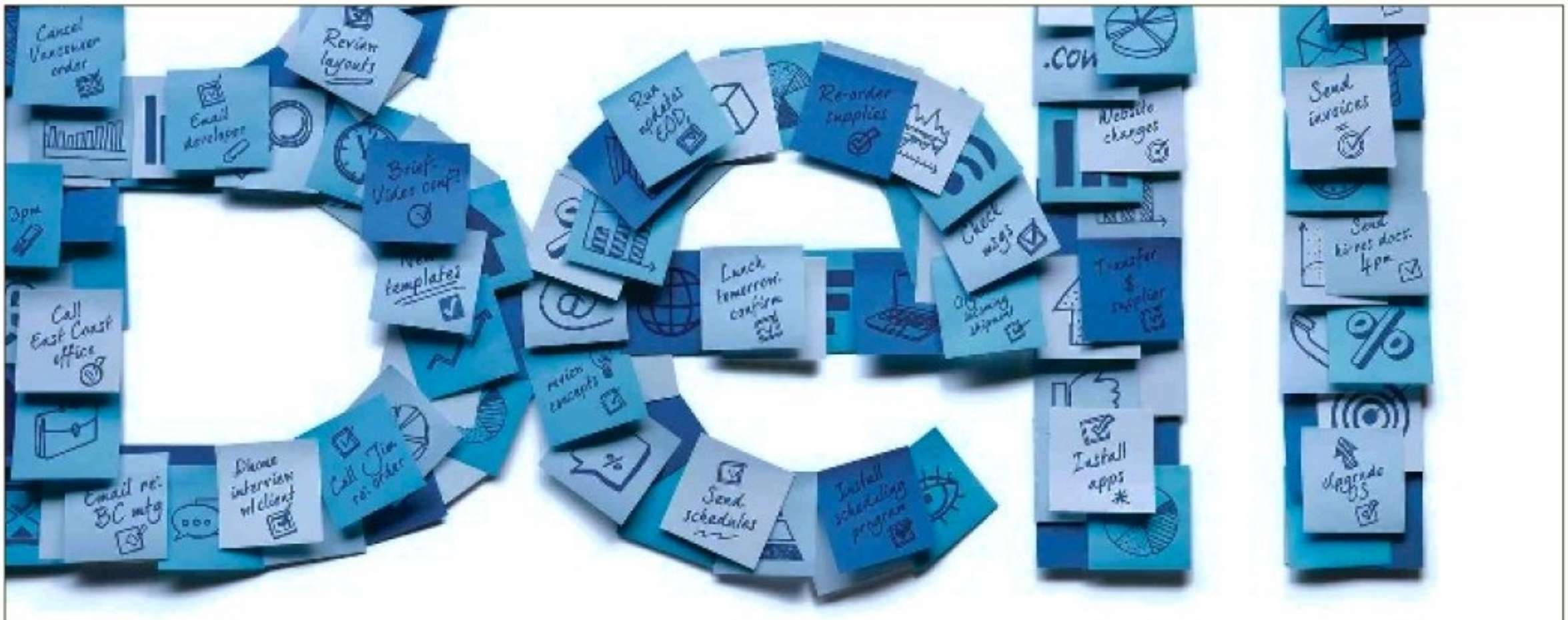

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5 THINGS TO WATCH AT CITY HALL THIS WEEK

Who says we're boring? Get wild at city hall this week as committees hear from sparring business groups, wrangle wild parsnip plans and argue about patios (again). Oh, and the local bike brigade can say "we told you so" as a bike parking pilot's results come back. **EMMA JACKSON** METRO

1 No idling

We've all seen it: An empty city vehicle hums in the parking lot (or, maddeningly, on a sidewalk) while its driver grabs a double-double nearby. But that environmental nightmare could soon be a distant memory if the transportation committee approves its new green fleet plan. The city will pilot new technology this year to track the driving habits of city employees, in an effort to save gas. Speeding, hard accelerating and idling all eat fuel at a mad rate, but idling is Enemy No. 1 — if all city vehicles idled five minutes less a day, the city would save 143,000 litres of gas a year.

2 BIA beef

Can't we all just get along? Downtown business improvement areas will duke it out at the finance and economic development committee Tuesday as the Downtown Rideau BIA attempts to expand its boundary east to Cummings Bridge, west to the NAC and north to an area most of us would consider the ByWard Market. Don't be surprised, then, that the ByWard Market BIA takes issue with the northward expansion. The Sparks Street BIA, for its part, doesn't like the western expansion. According to some 2014 research, the businesses themselves don't seem to care much one way or another.

3 Taming the wild, wild weed

It's never too early to start thinking about yardwork. For the city, that means an updated plan to wrangle wild parsnip, a noxious weed that's been choking rural roadsides and leaving some unsuspecting passersby with stinging welts on their legs. The city started spraying the weed last spring, and this year will expand the program to test out new chemicals. Hear all the wild details at the agriculture and rural affairs meeting Thursday.

4 Patio problems

If Ottawa's known to be boring, our lack of patios doesn't help — nor does the controversy that comes with every proposal to build one. The latest patio plea comes from the Clocktower Brew Pub, which opened on Elgin Street last fall. Its proposed seasonal patio would eat into the public sidewalk, reducing its width from the mandated 2.9 metres to 2 metres. That's still more than the city's accessibility guidelines, so staff want it approved. The transportation committee will decide Wednesday.

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5 Cycling corral

The city's on-street bike project was a big success, staff say — so big they're going to make it permanent in 2017. The two-year pilot replaced three parking spots around the city with 12-spot bike racks. Other than the Dalhousie Street location, they were well used, especially in the afternoon. The transportation committee will hear all about it Wednesday, including plans to reinstate the corrals this spring.

Zac Johnstone, a youth leader for mental health promotion in Ottawa, is heading to a national summit this week. METRO FILE

Student represents city at Jack Summit

MENTAL HEALTH

Youth leader says focus is on turning ideas into change

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

If Canadian youth are ready to talk about mental health then Zac Johnstone is ready to take action on it. The 20-year-old Ottawa student is heading to the Jack Summit this week to get ideas on how to translate powerful mental health discussions into real change.

"We've been having incredible conversations around stigma and those conversations are really important," said Johnstone, a third-year political science student at the University of Ottawa.

"But it really scares me to think that people going to access services after opening up about mental health are going to be put on a two-year waitlist."

Johnstone said decreasing the stigma around talking about mental health is only half the battle — if we encourage youth to ask for help, the help needs to be there.

"That's the conversation we really need to have," he said. "I think Canadians are talking about mental health more but we're not seeing the changes we need to see."

The Jack Summit in Toronto gathers together youth leaders from across the country to learn more about mental health, share solutions and "think outside the box" when it comes to ending stigma and staying healthy.

While Johnstone said he is looking forward to connecting with and talking to other student leaders his primary focus is turning ideas into change.

"I'm really excited, it's going to be a great experience," said Johnstone, who is currently a third-year political science student at the University of Ottawa.

Johnstone currently works alongside the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario to coordinate a program called Dare to Dream that gives $5,000 grants to high school students with unique ideas to improve mental health in their schools.

He's also active in his own school, promoting university-level programs to promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

He said he'd like to see more peer-to-peer support groups in schools and funding from governments to improve programs and services. As conversations around mental health continue he said it's important to tailor them to specific communities such as LGBT youth.

"We need more education," said Johnstone. "Both of mental health generally and where to access services, but also in terms of 'What can you do to stay healthy? What can you do if your friend is struggling?'"

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The Hong Kong Ballet, known for a high standard of dancing and precise legwork, is bringing **The Sleeping Beauty** to the National Arts Centre March 3-5. COURTESY CHEUNG CHI WAI

Sleeping Beauty awakes next week

PERFORMANCE

Hong Kong Ballet, School of Dance join artistic forces

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Through emails, DVDs and recorded music, the School of Dance in Ottawa has been planning an unprecedented performance with the Hong Kong Ballet.

"The thing that we're looking forward to is actually meeting everybody face-to-face," said Merrilee Hodgins, artistic director of Ottawa's School of Dance.

The Hong Kong Ballet was due to land in the capital just days before the first performance of The Sleeping Beauty at the National Arts Centre (NAC) on March 3.

About 20 student dancers from Ottawa — aged 6 to 25 — will be joining the Hong Kong troupe as extras.

In a short timeframe, someone with the Hong Kong Ballet will meet with the students to review everything the School of Dance has taught on their behalf before the production strikes.

This performance marks a homecoming for one of Hodgins' former students.

Natalie Ogonek studied at the School of Dance when she was a girl, then trained at Canada's National Ballet School, before moving on to study with the National Youth Ballet of Germany and Hamburg Ballet.

Last year, she joined the Hong Kong Ballet, which is known for a high standard of dancing and precise legwork.

Perhaps this experience will create more students like Ogonek.

"I'm hoping they will have more of a sense of the love of dance, the sense of being a performer," said Hodgins.

On March 1, the Hong Kong Ballet will also put on a special mixed rep performance of three dances: Chinese choreographer Li Jun's Dancing with the Wind, Nacho Duato's Castrati and Krzysztof Pastor's In Light and Shadow.

That starts at 8 p.m. Tickets start at $41.

> "I'm hoping they will have more of a sense of the love of dance, the sense of being a performer.
> Merrilee Hodgins

TICKETS

The Hong Kong Ballet and the School of Dance are putting on three performances of The Sleeping Beauty at the NAC March 3-5 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at $54.

For more information, visit nac-cna.ca.

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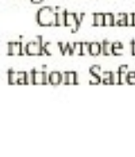
TECHNOLOGY

Kanata incubator's success sparks optimism for industry



Tom Pechlof
Ottawa Business Journal

The L-Spark incubator's second cohort oversubscribed earlier this month, a sign that more than just Ottawa's tech community is experiencing a revival, according to venture capitalist Code Cubitt.

"It speaks to entrepreneurism in Canada (being) very healthy," said Cubitt who, as managing director of Ottawa-based Mistral Venture Partners, had a seat on the selection committee.

L-Spark had planned on accepting eight startups but nine ended up making the grade, with companies being selected from Montreal, Toronto and Waterloo, as well as Ottawa.

It's a far cry from how the group started when it opened applications for its first accelerator in September 2014. Back then, it had room for six startups, but only two were selected.

In the latest selection process, 175 applicants were whittled down to 14 startups that were invited to a pitchfest.

"We debated with vigour for quite some time on the best quality and we ranked and ordered them on who we thought would a) benefit from the incubator, and b) have the highest probability of success in the long run," said Cubitt.

When considering whether to fund a company, Cubitt said he looks for a credible team, dependable technology, a unique business model and a large and relevant market. Cubitt said startups looking to enter incubators are "very raw," making it more difficult to select which ones might be destined for success.

"You get a bunch of founders in the room, they're drinking their own Kool-Aid," he said. "The incubators do a really good job of sort of sobering them up."

As early as it is for the nine companies selected, Cubitt said he did take note of a couple that he will continue to follow with an eye to possibly funding them down the road.

"I won't name names, but there were some that I thought had really interesting promise," he said.

TRAFFIC

City to study separating tracks

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

The city will rule on separating tracks from traffic in 2017.

City manager Kent Kirkpatrick wrote the federal Transportation Safety Board last week outlining plans to study five west-end rail crossings this year.

The $250,000 study will see if underpasses or overpasses are necessary — or even feasible — at the tracks.

The study comes from the TSB's recommendation last December that Ottawa revisit three level crossings in the wake of a deadly crash between an OC Transpo bus and a VIA train in Barrhaven in 2013.

Mayor Jim Watson has said federal funds will be necessary to afford any new infrastructure.

A report will be tabled some time in 2017.

Polar bear encounters rise

WILDLIFE

Experts say climate change to blame for troubling trend

Manitoba government documents suggest polar bear encounters with people have reached record levels on the shores of Hudson Bay with more of the mammals ending up in a specialized jail in Churchill.

Polar bear activity reports from the past three years show the number of documented cases in Churchill has jumped from 229 in 2013 to 351 last year.

The number of bears who were tranquilized and housed in the town's holding facility, known as the polar bear jail, before being released into the wild almost doubled from 36 in 2013 to 65 last year.

Daryll Hedman, regional wildlife manager for Manitoba Conservation, said last year set a record for the number of polar bears caught within the populated "control zone" of Churchill.

"Three hundred and fifty-one - for occurrences, that's a high number," he said.

While Manitoba conservation officers have stepped up their patrols recently, Hedman and other experts say climate change is largely to blame.

Canada is home to two-thirds of the world's polar bears, but experts say climate change could make the Hudson Bay population extinct within a few decades.

Polar bears depend on winter hunting to build up enough fat to carry them through the lean summer months on land when food is scarce. But Arctic waters now don't often freeze up until early December and thaw much earlier in the spring. That leaves polar bears with less time to bulk up on fatty seal meat while on the ice.

As the bears spend more time on land with less fat, they grow hungry and can venture into town in search of food. Where the first encounters with polar bears used to be late August, Hedman said polar bears are now coming into contact with people as early as July 1.

"What's the tipping point?" he said. "What's the threshold that they can go without food? When they're on land, they're not eating." THE CANADIAN PRESS

A polar bear mother and her two cubs walk along the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Man., in 2007. Manitoba government documents indicate polar bear encounters have reached record levels on the shores of Hudson Bay. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLICY

Feds spark debate on drones

The Trudeau government is quietly shopping for drones for the military and expects to see expressions of interest from the defence industry by mid-April.

The exercise is setting the stage for a potentially bruising policy debate over whether remotely controlled aircraft should be armed and under what circumstances they would employ deadly force. The Royal Canadian Air Force has lobbied hard for the capability to fire weapons from whatever drone is selected and has even written the assumption into mandatory requirements, according to access to information records.

The Pentagon and CIA run drone programs which have been subject to increasing scrutiny and criticism, particularly in light of the dramatic rise in strikes over the last eight years and claims of civilian casualties.

Errol Mendes, a University of Ottawa professor and expert in international law, says the government should start now to develop a framework of transparency and accountability for the use of drones. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Climate impacts anxiety

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Mental health of northern communities 'a big concern'

Residents of Nunatsiavut, N.L., are grieving **changes in the environment such as rising temperatures, delayed ice formation, shortened seasons, and shifting habitat**, according to PhD student Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, an assistant professor at Cape Breton University. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's mid-February and the ice roads into and out of Deer Lake First Nation still aren't reliable enough to officially open, a reality that weighs heavily on the minds of residents.

"It's very late. It's bad. We want to get our stuff, our supplies, housing materials, fuel. I don't know if we'll be able to get it this year (by road)," said chief Roy Dale Meekis.

Anxieties are high in this small Oji-Cree community, located about 700 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay. An unusually warm winter in Ontario's north has left the roads unstable and unsafe, and kept local road groomers out of work.

More supplies have to come by air, meaning higher costs for food, diesel fuel, medicines and bottled water in a community that has been under a drinking water advisory since 2001. To reduce demand for fuel, Deer Lake recently installed a 624-panel solar system to power the school. It helps, but doesn't address the isolation.

"It is a big concern, but what can we do? There's nothing we can do," said Meekis.

Deer Lake isn't alone. Ontario has roughly 3,100 kilometres of ice roads that keep 30 remote First Nation communities connected to the rest of the province.

"There's something definitely wrong in the North," said Isadore Day, Ontario's regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations.

In an interview, Day said he suspects that despair over climate change — its impact on roads, infrastructure, hunting traditions and the surrounding environment — is contributing to mental health and social problems in aboriginal communities.

He has called on the province and federal government to conduct a major climate change impact study for the North.

"A study of this nature, if done, will have the added effect of short-circuiting the anxiety we have of being left out of this growing national discussion on climate change policy," said Day.

> **"There's something definitely wrong in the North.**
> Regional chief Isadore Day

Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, an assistant professor of indigenous studies at Cape Breton University, said the connection between mental health and climate change in Canada's North is growing stronger.

"In Canada, we have this active fishing culture, active farming culture, and large Arctic indigenous groups who are on the front lines of climate change," she said, adding she was moved to tears from hearing their stories. "It's so hard to articulate how close they are to it and part of it — their breathing, their skin, their bones, their blood. So even subtle impacts on the environment can have major impacts on how they feel."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONVICTIONS

Feds plan review of past cases of gay men

The federal government says it plans to review cases where gay men were convicted of charges of "gross indecency" and "buggery" before the late 1960s when Canada decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults.

Details about the review are expected to be released in the coming days.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Sunday the review will determine if a pardon is warranted for any of the men who were convicted.

One of those men convicted under the old law was Everett Klippert, who was twice convicted under Canada's anti-homosexuality laws for consenting sexual acts in the 1960s.

Trudeau spokesman Cameron Ahmad said in a statement that Trudeau intends to recommend a pardon be granted posthumously to Klippert.

Canada's laws against homosexuality were changed in the '60s when Trudeau's father was in government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Chief calls for end to solitary confinement

The Ontario Human Rights Commission is calling for an end to the use of solitary confinement in provincial jails.

Chief Commissioner Renu Mandhane has asked the province to commit publicly to ending the practice and immediately restrict its use.

"We believe that it has a discriminatory and disproportionate impact on code-protected groups — namely, racialized individuals, people with mental health issues and women," said Mandhane, who joined the commission in November.

The recommendations, which the Star obtained ahead of their Monday release, came out of a request from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for the commission's participation in a sweeping review of segregation practices across the province announced last March.

Mandhane said the commission isn't naive to think an end to solitary can happen overnight, but said the ministry could minimize the impact of segregation by immediately implementing its recommendations.

The ministry has faced growing criticism over solitary confinement in Ontario jails, which comes amid mounting national and global concern about the mental health consequences of isolation. The review came after a string of Star stories that documented alleged human rights violations in provincial jails.

The recommendations include:

- Adjust staffing models, hiring and training to ensure staff with appropriate attitudes and behavioural skills are working with vulnerable prisoner populations.
- Continue to implement a landmark 2013 human rights settlement, which banned the use of segregation for prisoners with mental health disabilities.
- Make segregation placement decisions and health-care assessments subject to external and independent review and oversight.
- Ensure all prisoners and their legal representatives are given relevant information about and a genuine opportunity to challenge placement in segregation.
- Collect and analyze race-based and human rights-based data on the use of segregation, but more broadly on the progression of prisoners through the correctional system. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Canadians welcome 25,000th Syrian refugee

The 25,000th Syrian refugee landed in Canada Saturday night marking the end of the first phase of the Liberals' massive resettlement program. They were part of a plane load of refugees who touched down in Montreal. Of the 25,000 who have now arrived, more than half will have their costs covered by the government in their first year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP spent $900K to nab B.C. terrorism suspects

The RCMP spent over $900,000 in overtime pay during a five-month undercover operation that led to the arrests of two terrorism suspects in B.C.

Documents obtained by The Canadian Press through a freedom-of-information request show the Mounties paid at least 200 people, mostly police, $911,090.54 for overtime work during the investigation Project Souvenir.

The operation led to the arrests of common-law spouses John Nuttall and Amanda Korody on July 1, 2013, who were found guilty last summer of plotting to blow up the B.C. legislature THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clinton pulling ahead

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Hillary has edge on eve of Super Tuesday

Hillary Clinton resoundingly reclaimed her standing as the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination with a lopsided victory over Bernie Sanders in South Carolina, giving her momentum heading into the Super Tuesday contests in multiple states.

For Sanders, the roughly 50-point defeat crystallized his weakness with black voters, a crucial segment of the Democratic electorate. If he loses blacks by similar margins in the Southern states that vote Tuesday, Clinton would likely take a delegate lead too difficult for the Vermont senator to overcome.

Taken together, 865 Democratic delegates to the party's national nominating convention are up for grabs in the Super Tuesday contests in 11 states and American Samoa. Sanders aims to stay close to Clinton in the South while focusing most of his attention on states in the Midwest and Northeast, including his home state of Vermont.

As Clinton relished the most sweeping victory of her political career, her focus was already on Super Tuesday — and the general election.

"Despite what you hear, we don't need to make America great again," Clinton said at a rally Saturday night, alluding to Republican front-runner Donald Trump and his campaign slogan. "America has never stopped being great," Clinton declared.

> **America has never stopped being great.**
> Hillary Clinton

Sanders acknowledged getting "decimated" in South Carolina, but said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that his campaign is "looking to the future, not looking back" as the contests move outside the South.

For Clinton, South Carolina was a moment to wipe away bitter memories of her loss to Barack Obama there eight years ago.

Hillary Clinton takes the lead in South Carolina. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

She won the support of nearly nine in 10 black voters, crucial Democratic backers who had abandoned her for Obama in 2008.

Clinton has a substantial lead among superdelegates, the Democratic Party leaders who can vote for the candidate of their choice at this summer's national convention, regardless of how their states vote. It takes 2,383 delegates to win the nomination.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Gas explosions at mine kill 36 people in Russia

A methane gas leak at a coal mine in Russia's far north triggered three explosions that ignited fires and partially collapsed the mine, killing 36 people, officials said Sunday.

The dead included five rescue workers and a mine worker who were killed early Sunday when the third explosion rocked the Severnaya mine in Vorkuta, a town north of the Arctic Circle in the Komi region, the emergency services said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algerian jailed for possible link to Paris terror attacks

An Algerian citizen has been jailed for possible links to the suspected ringleader of the Paris attacks, Abdelhamid Abaaoud.

A court in Algeria's Bejaia province said the man, who lives in Belgium, was jailed Tuesday in the northern Algerian town Akbou.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CALIFORNIA

KKK rally triggers stabbings

Dozens of protesters who heard about a planned Ku Klux Klan rally were waiting by a Southern California park when six Klansmen pulled up in a black SUV and took out signs reading "White Lives Matter." The KKK members were dressed in black shirts decorated with the Klan cross and Confederate flag patches.

The protesters immediately moved in, surrounding the Klansmen. Someone smashed the SUV's window, and then mayhem ensued.

Witness video captured the brawl just after noon Saturday in an Anaheim park about 3 miles from Disneyland. Several protesters could be seen kicking a KKK member. One Klansman with an American flag used the pole's tip to stab a man.

"I got stabbed," the man screamed, lifting his T-shirt to show a wound to his stomach. A fire hydrant where the man briefly sat was covered in blood.

By the time ordered was restored, three people had been stabbed, one critically. Five Klansmen were booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, and seven of the approximately 30 counter-protesters were arrested on suspicion of assault with force

A stabbing victim receives first aid from an Anaheim Police Officer, at Pearson Park in Anaheim on Saturday.
OC WEEKLY VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

death," said Brian Levin, who directs California State University, San Bernardino's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. Levin, who was monitoring the protest, said he tried to intervene when "all hell broke loose," using his body to get between counter-protesters and Klansmen until officers were able to reach the scene.

Levin said he saw no uniformed officers when the melee started. Sgt. Daron Wyatt says police were definitely there and were engaged with people at one end of the fight, and called for additional resources to deploy to the said his officers were able to respond quickly enough to arrest all but one of the main participants, with the exception of one counter-protester who was still at large Sunday. Four of the arrestees were released after a review of video evidence, he said Sunday in a statement from the city.

"We will always honour free speech in Anaheim, but we vehemently reject hate and violent confrontation," Mayor Tom Tait said added. "Anaheim is proud to draw strength in its diversity, tolerance and kindness, and Saturday's events run counter to that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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UNIVERSITÉ SAINT-PAUL UNIVERSITY

ONLINE PURCHASES

U.S. duty-free exemption now more than 40 times Canada's

Americans are now allowed to spend more than 40 times as much as their northern neighbours without paying duty on products shipped from abroad, as a result of a new law.

Last week, U.S. President Barack Obama signed a bill vastly expanding the duty-free exemption for products imported by mail. The new $800 US limit quadruples the previous amount, which was already multiple times higher than Canada's $20 exemption.

There's pressure on the Canadian government in the runup to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's trip to Washington to narrow that gap, with the pressure coming from pockets of the U.S. government and industry.

One business group has even sought to enlist Canadian customers by circulating an online petition asking people to add their names if they want to stop paying what it calls an unfair duty.

> The gap is unsustainable in our integrated economy.
> Maryscott Greenwood

"The gap is unsustainable in our integrated economy," said Maryscott Greenwood of the Canadian American Business Council, which started the petition.

"Canadians we hear from see it as a fundamental issue of fairness. Why should Canadians pay duty on the very same items Americans buy duty free?"

She and a U.S. federal source said American officials are raising the issue with their Canadian counterparts as they prepare for Trudeau's state visit next month.

The Canadian government has grappled with it before.

As the House of Commons Finance committee gathered advice for the 2014 budget it received a submission from eBay — one of the biggest potential winners of a relaxed duty exemption.

The online retailer said Canada's standard was far stricter than most other countries and noted that the $20 amount hadn't been revised since 1985.

It said an increase would boost mail delivery, save Canada Post millions in administrative costs, and spare consumers from the sticker shock that occasionally comes with online imports.

The Senate Finance committee also called for the matter to be looked at in 2013.

The committee pointed to claims from the Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters, which said the average fee charged by most courier companies or customs brokers is $25, and that Canadians paid more than twice their American neighbours for a $21 online imported product back when the dollar was at par.

Canadian retailers have fought a policy change, warning it would come with a cost.

The Retail Council of Canada said the federal and provincial governments would suffer a substantial revenue loss. It also argued that such a move would be a disincentive for Canadian companies to hire IT workers and invest in bricks-and-mortar businesses at home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cineplex stepping into eSports field

VIDEO GAMING

Theatre chain invests $15M in fast-growing pastime

It's a classic sporting narrative: The plucky underdog takes on an established player while spectators squeal and grunt after a good shot or near miss.

But in this case, whenever the competitors get one-upped they respawn.

Welcome to eSports, where both underdog and veteran are teenage boys going toe-to-toe — or more accurately controller-to-controller — in Cineplex's first national video game tournament.

The game of choice is a one-on-one version of Call of Duty: Black Ops 3, a first-person shooter in which players aim down the barrel of their guns to find and kill enemy combatants.

The winner of the regional contest becomes Toronto's representative in the national championship on March 6, the winner of which will take home $20,000.

Cineplex has invested $15 million US in WorldGaming, through which it will run house leagues, rent out playing time at theatres and host local and national tournaments.

It plans to hold national championships on the scale of the inaugural Call of Duty tournament on a quarterly basis.

The movie theatre in downtown Toronto was only half full of challengers and spectators — a far cry from the arena-sized crowds eSports draws in Asia, with its multimillion-dollar prizes and viewership second only to the Super Bowl.

But the movie theatre event is progress for a country that is still considered a noob in the eSports world.

The Canadian theatre chain is one of a growing number of companies looking to stake an early claim into eSports, a pastime that could soon eclipse going to the movies among millennials. Some projections estimate the eSports market could grow to $2 billion US by 2018. Deloitte's annual technology trend forecast said the potential business value of eSports "is clearly too significant to ignore."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chris Loranger a.k.a. "Huk" is a Canadian professional gamer. His game of choice is PC-based Starcraft 2. CONTRIBUTED

THE NUMBERS

- **$18.4 million US** — biggest overall prize giveaway in eSports history was doled out at The International DOTA 2 2015 championships.
- **$6.6 million US** — first place team take-home from DOTA 2 championship
- **5th** — Canadian players' ranking in total money earned in tournaments
- **$500 million US** — Global revenues expected to be generated by eSports in 2016, up 25 per cent from 2015

VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT

Competitors at all skill levels

There may not be any professional gamers at Cineplex's first national video game tournament, but some of the players come pretty close.

The gamer girl

Dee Motton a.k.a. "xLady Divine" — one of three women who advanced to the Toronto regional finals — is used to being dismissed as an "e-girl," a derogatory term for female gamers. That is, until opponents see her play.

The Alliston, Ont. native, 27, has been gaming since she was a little girl. Now she plays competitively on a team that goes to about six competitive Call of Duty events each year.

The first-timer

Hans Kurti a.k.a. "Aerroox", a fresh-faced tournament first-timer, was the underdog in an intense final that saw him lose to a seasoned veteran.

After pulling out a first-round win against Royalty, a well-known Canadian gamer he watches online, the hoodie-wearing Ryerson student went on to lose the next two rounds. But he has the chance to compete for a wild-card spot in the national championship.

The Champ

Matt Faithfull a.k.a. "Royalty"didn't feel pressure from the crowd watching at his 15th event. In fact, he's used to competing in front of a bigger audience.

The Sheridan College student, 18, is a well-known player in the Canadian gaming scene — famous for his aggressive style of play. He's won in professional team-based competitions, but got dropped from his team. Now, he just does it for fun. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, February 29, 2016

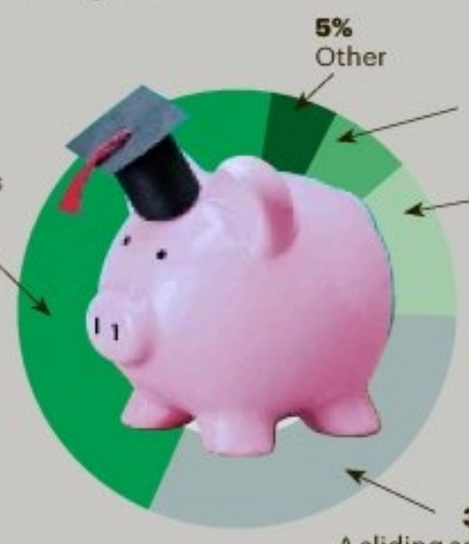
Metro POLL

School fees or school free?

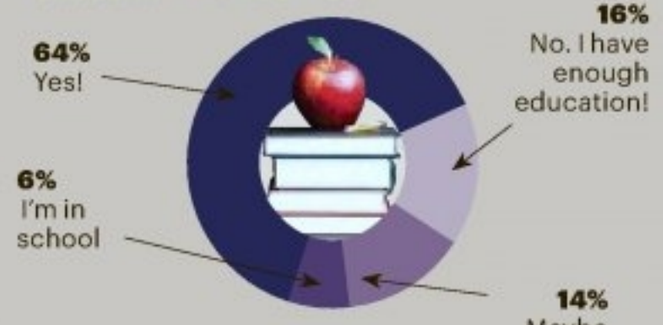
Visit metronews.ca **to have your say.**

Ontario announced last week that it will hand over significantly more grant and loan money to college and university — essentially making tuition free for families who make less than $50,000. We asked our readers from across the country if school should be free, or if there's a good reason for sky-high tuition fees.

1 How should we decide how much college and university cost?


46% Tuition should be free for all students
5% Other
6% Let the market decide
12% There's nothing wrong with the loans and grants available now
31% A sliding scale based on family income

2 Would you go back to post-secondary education if it was free?



3 If you think tuition should be free below a certain family income, what should the income be?

33% Less than $50K
22% Less than $100K
9% Less than $20K
8% Less than $250K
25% I don't agree with that
3% Other

I'd love it to be free, but we already can't pay for quality education in public K-12.

Everybody should have the right to an affordable education.

Tuition should be a sliding scale based on prior marks and income.

If the government thinks education is expensive, it should try ignorance.

WE ASKED Metro readers

No one's lobbying to close the digital divide

COLLINS' CAPITAL

Steve Collins

Are there policy issues that are none of the city's business?

The question of whether Bell should be required to sell competitors access to its high-speed fibre-optic network, as the CRTC ruled last fall, is entirely in the feds' jurisdiction.

Bell wants cabinet to reverse the decision, but Coun. Jeff Leiper urged council to support the original ruling, intended to encourage competition and keep a lid on the cost of Internet service in Ottawa.

"I can't support this motion mostly because I don't think it belongs in this room," Coun. Jody Mitic opined.

Jurisdictional quibbles, however, haven't prevented cities from writing to cabinet, either backing the CRTC (Calgary, Toronto's city council) or taking Bell's side (Toronto Mayor John Tory and our own Jim Watson).

"It's a local company that creates a lot of jobs," Watson explained, characterizing the network-sharing rules as unfair. "They invest tens of millions of dollars in their network just to have competitors come and use their network at a severely reduced cost."

You'll actually find Bell's headquarters in Montreal, but by the nature of their business, they're everywhere, so maybe that technically makes them local.

And they do employ people here, including three lobbyists they dispatched to meet with councillors in the week leading up to the vote, according to filings with the city registry.

Coun. Mitic, who had handy the number of Bell employees in Ottawa (4,000, he said), met with Bell lobbyist Simon Dwyer the day of the vote.

Of the 16 councillors who joined the mayor in voting down Leiper's motion, Bell had lobbied 13.

For what it's worth, three other councillors Bell lobbied voted with Leiper anyway, who himself had his ear bent by a lobbyist for little-guy Internet provider TekSavvy, one of the companies vying to keep its access to Bell's network.

This arm-twisting is all perfectly legal, and thanks to the registry, public within days. What it is not, however, is a disinterested attempt to educate politicians on an issue. These companies are in the telecommunication business, not the public interest business.

The CBC last week reported that Bell, forced by new CRTC rules to offer a basic TV package for $25 or less, asked employees not to promote it to customers and allegedly structuring the cost of add-on channels to make pick-and-pay as unappealing a deal as possible.

That's their business. Few companies are going to charge less than every penny they think they can get unless they're forced to.

Here's the city's business: In order to bury their cables, Bell will have to tear up our streets and rely on our rights of way and connecting infrastructure.

Internet access is not a luxury anymore, but a basic tool, whether you're looking for a job, researching a school paper or connecting to the ever-growing number of city services that have migrated online.

Those who can't afford high-speed Internet are already on the wrong side of what Coun. Catherine McKenney calls the "digital divide." Limiting competition would widen it.

If that's not city business, it should be.

Steve Collins lives in Ottawa. He might also be the guy behind you on the bus, pretending not to notice you're reading this. Act casual.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Presidential hopefuls could take some style tips from the Oscars

The Oscars came and went, and once again, it doesn't matter that you were busy tweezing your bikini line. Scrubbing your calluses is more satisfying than watching the Academy Awards. Any personal grooming, really.

The highlights were, as usual, already sliced and diced into an easily digestible breakfast this morning. In fact, the evening's growing irrelevance, heightened by its confounding whiteness and only slightly mitigated by host Chris Rock, is redeemed by just one thing: the fashion.

The jewelry. The dresses!

The Oscars have the exact opposite problem of the U.S. election — which is long on bombast, scandal, juice, jowls and most of all: consequence. What it does not have, not even a little bit, is style.

Bernie Sanders has an almost Michael Moorian compulsion to look unkempt. Hillary Clinton knows no other shape than rectangle. Tangerine-tinged Donald Trump daringly wore a purple tie once, and he still looked like a TV used car salesman. Marco Rubio paired so-called "Cuban heels" (akin to cowboy boots) with his "dad's hand-me-downs" esthetic and the media had a field day. Ted Cruz, who's been accused of mistaking a Snuggie for a trench coat, doesn't appear to know that, whatever his political aspirations, he's too small to shop at Destination XL.

This election has been galling, frustrating, vicious, compelling. Its drama can only be perfected in the wardrobe department, by any one of last night's standout hits or memorable look from past. Picture Sanders in Angelina Jolie's leg-baring 2012 Atelier Versace number, which he wouldn't shrink from wearing since he's got no establishment ties to hide.

Clinton could prove her humanity to those doubting it by finally showing some skin, à la Lupita Nyong'o and her 2014 pale blue Prada gown.

Trump, whose political moral compass points in Hugh Hefner's general direction, could take the playboy look and steal David Oyelowo's burgundy Dolce and Gabbana tux (preferably in velvet).

Perhaps Rubio could gain traction with J.Lo fans by mimicking her barely-there 2015 Elie Saab Couture look (it matches his barely-there support for immigrants' rights).

And Cruz, the ultimate right-wing snake, might feel quite at home in Marion Cotillard's 2008 Jean Paul Gaultier scale-covered dress. It's white, an effective colour to don for battling Trump to be the evangelical's political savior.

One might argue these vying commanders-in-chief are already the hardest working actors around, so why not class it up – if only sartorially.

metro
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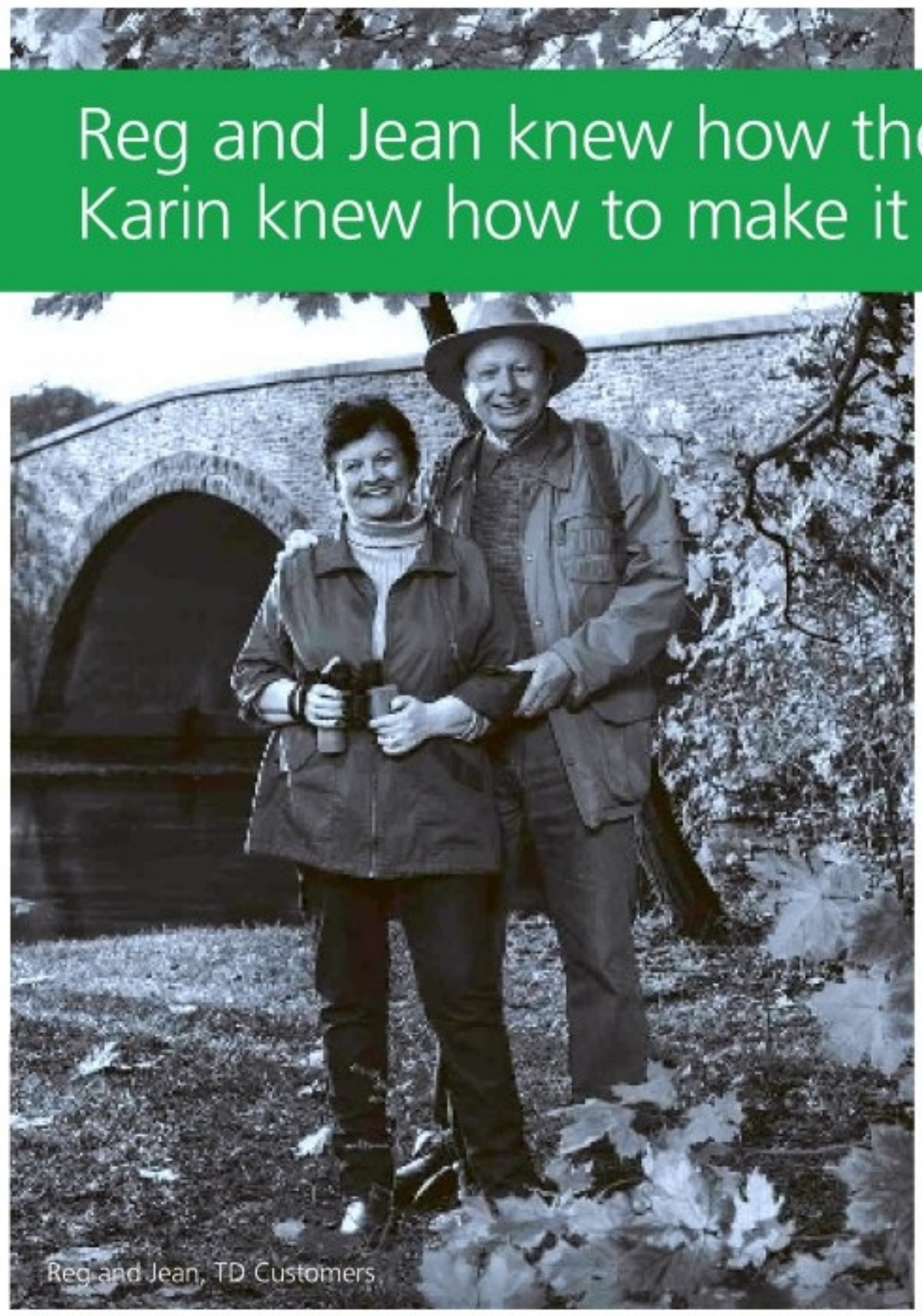

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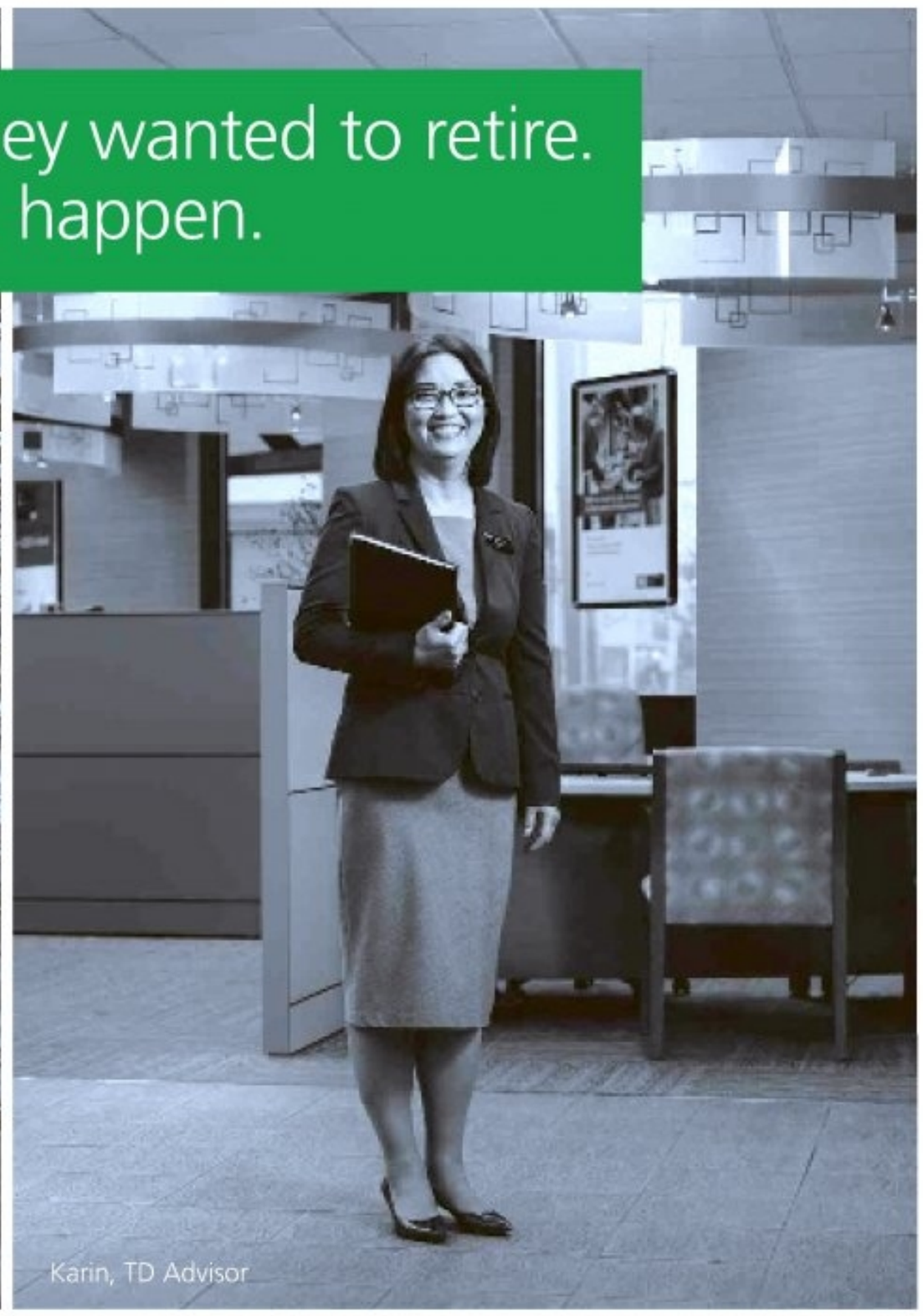

Karin, TD Advisor

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Six ways to deal with debt

NEST EGG

Manage your money so you can start saving again

Michelle Williams

Debt management involves examining your spending habits and making necessary changes. ISTOCK

If you're like many Canadians, your current financial strategy is less about funding your future retirement and more about dealing with debt. Even if you're earning a good living, fiscal challenges like interminable student loans, mounting credit-card bills and massive mortgage payments can take a huge chunk of your earnings. But there are ways to manage your money that help you pay down debt while putting you on the path to saving:

1. Define your long-term goals

"Basically, it's starting at the ending point," says Kurt Rosentreter, a senior financial advisor at Manulife Securities and chartered accountant in Toronto. "Likely, your goals include paying off your debt, accumulating enough wealth to retire on and perhaps helping your kids toward financial independence. By defining those goals, you have a focus, something you should never lose track of."

Rosentreter suggests going back every few years to track how you're doing at meeting your long-term goals.

2. Examine your spending

"Go back a year and look at your bank and credit-card statements to determine where your money is going," Rosentreter says. "On a spreadsheet, group your expenses into categories."

He recommends four groupings: essential costs (such as food, shelter, utilities), variable costs (things you need but could spend less on or put off to later), discretionary costs (restaurant meals, vacations, entertainment) and luxury costs (indulgent items, such as expensive clothing, high-priced cars, etc.).

3. Change the way you spend

Tracking how you spend can be enlightening and helpful in starting you on the road to changing your money habits.

"The biggest impediment to paying debt is your spending behaviour. Many of the expenses in the first two groups are difficult to eliminate, but you can certainly change the way you spend in groups three and four, the discretionary areas."

4. Don't ignore the small stuff

It's not just the big-ticket items that contribute to debt load. When scanning your credit-card statements, it may be surprising how many of the credit charges are incidental.

"Fewer movies, fewer lattes, fewer lunches out. Skipping all these little treats will add up big over time."

5. Pay off the high-interest debt first

"Credit-card interest is usually high. Your first priority should be to pay down the debt that has the highest rate of interest."

You may wish to move some or all of your credit-card debt to a line of credit or some other lower-interest vehicle to save on interest while you're working down your debt.

6. If necessary, make big changes

If you still can't chip away at your debt, maybe you need bigger changes to your lifestyle. Examine things like your home (is it too much house for you to carry?), the food you buy (can you shop at a less expensive store?) or the way you get around (do you really need a car?) Following this plan will help you save, but how much — and over how long?

"It's difficult to put an amount or time frame around debt repayment, but you should have a debt-free date as part of your goal planning. It will be much more difficult for a lower-income earner to save large amounts of money over smaller periods of time than someone who has more disposable income," says Rosentreter.

Set reasonable timelines and realistic amounts so you can maximize your chances of success. Look online for a debt repayment calculator tool or seek the advice of a financial expert to help you set reasonable goals you can manage.

Meet your local TD advisor

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Your essential daily news

Washington state authorities investigating after Salma Hayek's dog found dead

Will Annick and Yolanda's financial goals be met? **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** has only a few weeks left to left to tackle the women's largest financial burdens and teach them to allocate resources.

Moving home to save a down payment

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metro*money*

THE CHALLENGE: Two ambitious young women have taken on the task of working with financial guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie to makeover their finances in just 12 weeks. Yolanda, 27, in Mississauga, and Annick, 24, from Calgary, are making strides towards eliminating their debts and building savings for down payments and emergencies. Follow their progress #MetroMoneyMakeover @LesleyScorgie.

THIS WEEK: Who wants to move back home after launching from the nest? No one — unless you're Yolanda and saving for a down payment for a home in the GTA.

NEXT WEEK: The road to debt freedom is littered with surprises. Annick's 60/60/60 debt reduction plan ensures she'll reach her debt elimination goal quickly, but doesn't leave room in her budget for "what-if" expenses. We'll explore ways Annick can build emergency funds on her uber-tight budget.

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

Yolanda is willing to move back in with her mother to increase her savings so she can buy a home of her own. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

THE SITUATION

Yolanda wants nothing more than to buy a condo and live wild and free in walls that she owns. No more landlords, noise notices (because of her puppy, of course), rent increases and lease agreements. But to get to home ownership, she needs to amp up her savings to $835 per month and curb her periodic impulse purchases. At this pace, she'll have $30,000 within three years ($25,000 for the down payment and $5,000 for closing costs).

Yolanda recently discovered the power of budgeting — lining up her income against her expenses. Unlike so many of us who run in the red, when we broke down the numbers, Yolanda actually had a surplus of $515 each month, with which she can save. But to make up the difference between what she needs to save ($835 per month), she's made the decision to pack up her tiny basement apartment and move back in with her mom this June. This action will save her $350 each month (reduced rent, no utility or grocery bills).

THE LESSON

Generally, if you want something badly, whether home ownership or money to pay for your wedding, you'll need to make sacrifices. Everything in our budget is a trade-off. So, if Yolanda spends more than she needs to on rent, she'll forgo money that could be used towards her down payment.

Certainly there will be drawbacks for Yolanda as she moves home — sharing a bathroom, lack of privacy, a longer commute (two versus one bus) and feeling the pressure of her mother's watchful eyes. But, these challenges can be managed through basic boundary setting and time management. For example, while commuting, Yolanda could use that time to update her budget, read up on current affairs and plan her next career move.

The benefits of her decision are unequivocal — hundreds of dollars saved every month, home cooking and extra care for her pooch, which will relieve Yolanda of the puppy-guilt she drags to work daily. For Yolanda, the pros of moving home far outweigh the cons.

BY THE NUMBERS

Yolanda's Net Worth

The Progress: By bringing Yolanda's financial goals into the forefront she's started taking her money seriously. Since we first sat down in December, Yolanda has improved her net worth by $1,500 through contributing to her RRSP, TFSA and pension and eliminating an annoying $300 MasterCard balance.

Assets	
TFSA	$500
RRSP	$900
Savings	$100
Pension	$4,300
Total Assets	**$5,800**
Liabilities	
VISA	$0
Master card	$0
Total Liabilities	**$0**
Net Worth	**$5,800**

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Chris Rock: Our best black friend

THE OSCARS

Host takes aim at casting clichés and racism in Hollywood

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

All eyes were on Hollywood Sunday night for the 88th annual Academy Awards, where there were very few sure things.

The ceremony kicked off with a tribute to the year in film for 2015, spreading far beyond the nominated films for its montage.

"I counted at least 15 black people in that montage," host Chris Rock said as he took the stage.

Most of the assembled Hollywood elite were on the edges of their seats about how Rock would address the elephant in the room — the lack of racial diversity in the nominees and the resulting #OscarsSoWhite controversy. And he didn't leave them wondering for long, calling the Oscars, "The White People's Choice Awards" before moving on to mock those calling for a boycott.

"Jada boycotting the Oscars is like me boycotting Rihanna's panties. I wasn't invited," he said. He also risked crossing a line or two with some eyebrow-raising lines:

"We were too busy being raped and lynched to care about who won best cinematographer" he said of African-Americans during the 1960s.

"This year, in the In Memoriam package, it's just going to be black people that were shot by the cops on the way to the movies."

After more than nine minutes on the subject, Rock insisted, "Everything's not about race," and then tossed in one joke about women getting more style questions about their attire than men. But with each subsequent appearance on stage, it became clear Rock wasn't letting the issue go.

Some worked better than others, like a video superimposing black characters into this year's nominated films, like Whoopi Goldberg mopping a floor in Joy, Rock as the astronaut in The Martian and Leslie Jones as the bear mauling Leonardo DiCaprio in The Revenant. But others, like bringing out controversial figure Stacey Dash to wish everyone a happy Black History Month, didn't land nearly as well.

As for the awards themselves, the first win of the night for Spotlight — for best original screenplay — with Tom McCarthy's drama looking to repeat its success from the day before at the Spirit Awards. Best adapted screenplay went to another best picture contender, The Big Short. Director and co-writer Adam McKay used his speech to address U.S. politics:

"If you don't want big money to control government, don't vote for candidates that take money from big companies or weird billionaires," he said.

Best supporting actress — one of the harder-to-predict races of the night — went to Alicia Vikander for her work in The Danish Girl, her first nomination and win, before Mad Max: Fury Road started an apparent sweep, taking home best editing, best costume design, best sound editing, best sound mixing, best production design and best makeup and hairstyling.

Mad Max: Fury Road didn't win in every category, though, with Emmanuel Lubezki winning best cinematography award for The Revenant, making him the first cinematographer in history to win the award three years in a row.

He previously won for Birdman and Gravity. And best visual effects went to the team from the indie sci-fi drama Ex Machina.

MORE ONLINE
visit metronews.ca for full list of winners

Jada boycotting the Oscars is like me boycotting Rihanna's panties. I wasn't invited.
Chris Rock pokes fun at Jada Pinkett Smith boycotting the Academy Awards

Chris Rock wasn't afraid to tackle the #OscarsSoWhite controversy at the Academy Awards Sunday night. GETTY IMAGES

HOLLYWOOD GLAM
TASSELS, TRAINS & POPS OF GOLD

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The force was with her
Rooney Mara's ivory Givenchy gown and tightly-wound hair had Twitter users drawing comparisons to Daisy Ridley's Rey in Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

Gorgeous in green
As a concept, "seafoam green mermaid dress" sounds too wacky for Cate Blanchett. But seeing it on the actress, who starred in Carol, this feathered Armani Privé with hand-sewn Swarovski crystals is as romantic as the ocean.

Ready to pop
Chrissy Teigen's belly may have popped a few beads — the pregnant Sports Illustrated model Instagrammed a photo of seamstresses going to work on her stunning nude and maroon Marchesa gown just a couple hours before Sunday night's ceremony.

All aboard the Oscar train
Rachel McAdams transformed from dowdy Boston Globe reporter in Spotlight to red-carpet stunner in this August Getty Atelier gown with a train that flowed forever.

Shining bright
Margot Robbie, who starred in The Big Short, was the red carpet's golden girl in a shimmering plunge-neck Diane Von Furstenberg gown and small black clutch trailing an ankle-grazing tassel.

metro SPORTS

Despite fracturing her left knee the day before, Lindsey Vonn competed Sunday and placed 13th in a World Cup Alpine combined event

Rangers trade for Staal

NHL

Hurricanes deal captain for package including picks

Eric Staal gets to play with another brother, and the New York Rangers are loading up for the playoffs.

The Rangers acquired the Carolina Hurricanes' captain and face of the franchise on Sunday.

In exchange for Staal, the Rangers sent centre Aleksi Saarela, who is currently playing in his native Finland, to Carolina along with New York's second-round selections in each of the next two drafts.

Rangers general manager Jeff Gorton said the Hurricanes retained a portion of Staal's $8.25-million cap hit, and have enough financial flexibility to add another "small-salary player if we wanted to."

The Rangers trail first-place Washington by 16 points in the Metropolitan Division standings.

"We felt like he was one of the best, if not the best, player available on the market to give us what we're looking for in our top nine," Gorton said. "And that's why we made the move."

The deal — finalized prior to the Hurricanes' 5-2 loss to the St. Louis Blues and a day before the NHL trade deadline — wasn't a total surprise from Carolina's perspective.

The 31-year-old Staal had spent his entire 12-year career with the Hurricanes, who drafted him with the second overall pick in 2003.

He is eligible to become an unrestricted free agent this summer, once the final year of his seven-year, $55.75-million contract expires.

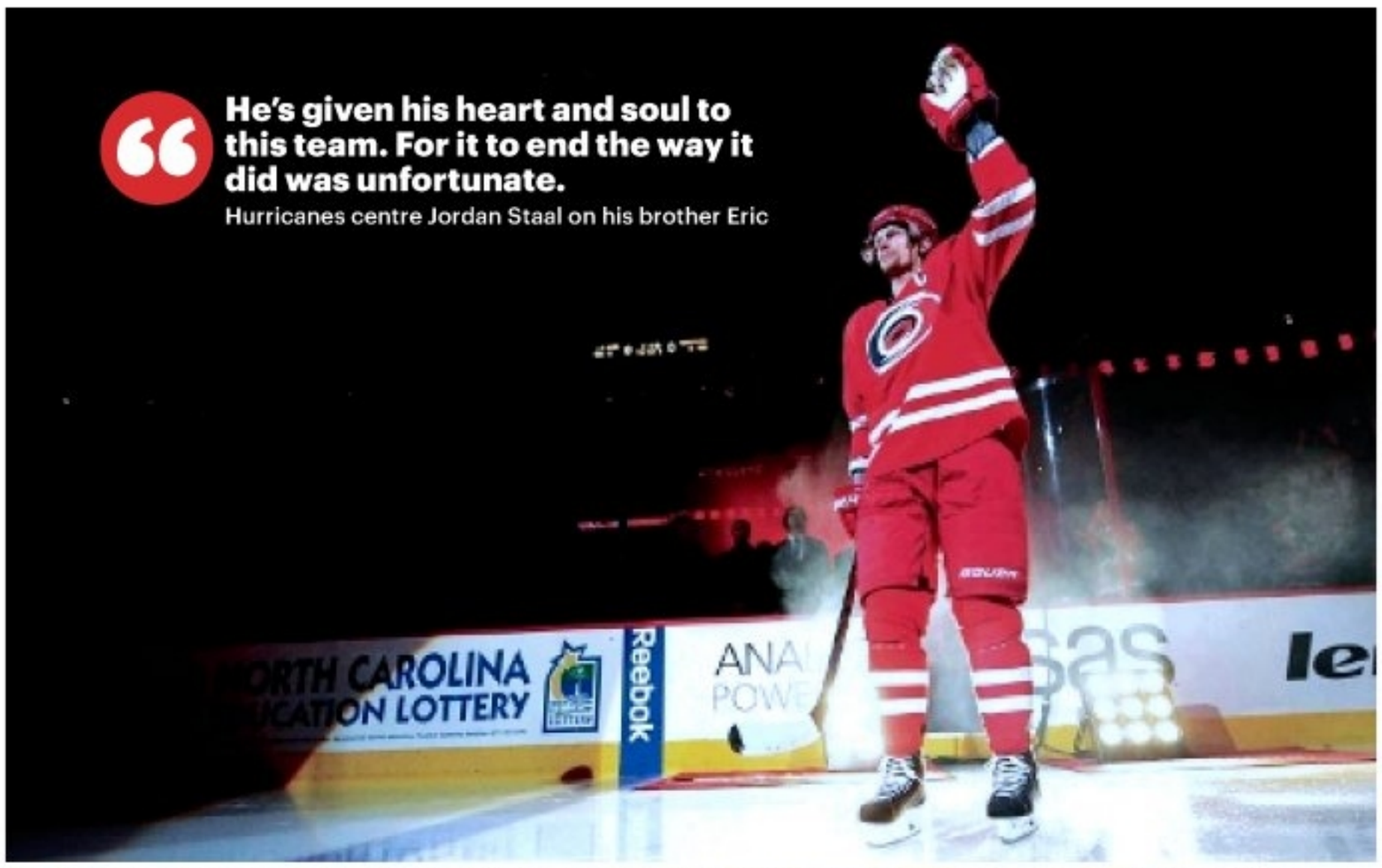
After a rocky start, Carolina mounted a late push for its first playoff berth since 2009, but has lost five of its last seven games. The Hurricanes are four points behind Pittsburgh for the final wild-card spot with the Penguins having four games in hand.

"This group has played some really good hockey from December to this point, and they're working hard, and you never want to have to do this," Francis said. "But when you look at the big picture, and we couldn't get comfortable on a contract term, then you can't lose an asset like that for nothing. It's too important to your franchise moving forward."

The trade leaves goalie Cam Ward — who earned the Conn Smythe Trophy in 2006 as the franchise won its only Stanley Cup — as the only Hurricane left from any of the club's playoff teams.

Staal leaves one younger brother, Jordan Staal, and will be united with another brother, Marc, who plays defence for the Rangers. A fourth Staal brother, Jared, is playing with South Carolina of the ECHL and had been in the Hurricanes' organization.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


He's given his heart and soul to this team. For it to end the way it did was unfortunate.
Hurricanes centre Jordan Staal on his brother Eric
NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY
Reebok

Eric Staal is the Hurricanes' career leader in numerous categories, including goals (332) and points (775). GETTY IMAGES FILE

5

Staal has scored 30-plus goals five times in his career. He has 10 goals and 23 assists this season.

MOGULS

Kingsbury captures 32nd title

Mikael Kingsbury captured his 32nd FIS World Cup title Sunday, winning the dual moguls event on a three-medal day for Canada.

The 23-year-old freestyle skier from Deux-Montagnes, Que., defeated American Thomas Rowley 20-15, while Benjamin Caven of France won the bronze.

The victory capped an impressive weekend for Kingsbury, who was second in Saturday's single moguls event.

"I'm thrilled to be back on top of a World Cup," Kingsbury said. "There were a few challenges with the course and I had to beat some really good competitors along the way. I really wanted to win (Saturday) and I didn't, so I was extra motivated.

"My confidence kept going up after each dual. I'm happy with the way I dealt with things and that I've basically locked up the Crystal Globe (the overall title."

Audrey Robichaud of Quebec City and Chloe Dufour-Lapointe of Montreal were back on the podium, finishing second and third respectively in the women's dual moguls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SECOND WIN

Marie-Michele Gagnon of Lac-Etchemin, Que., captured her second career World Cup Alpine victory by winning the women's combined event on Sunday.

MLB

Vegas trip puts Tulo at ease as a Blue Jay

Troy Tulowitzki finally feels like himself when he puts on a Toronto Blue Jays jersey. All it took was a playoff run and some off-season bonding with his teammates.

The all-star shortstop, who came to Toronto in a trade deadline deal with the Colorado Rockies last July, is participating in his first spring training with the team.

After the Jays won the American League East title last season, Tulowitzki and seven of his teammates met up in Las Vegas in December to watch UFC 194. The experience went a long way in cementing Tulowitzki's bond with the others.

Troy Tulowitzki
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I felt like we became closer this off-season, and that made the transition a lot easier," Tulowitzki said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Messi leads Barca to win

Lionel Messi scored with an unstoppable free kick to help Barcelona come from behind to beat Sevilla 2-1 on Sunday, a record-equalling 34th game without a loss that kept the champions on track to retain their Spanish league title.

Sevilla's Victor (Vitolo) Machin struck first for the visitors in the 20th minute, but Messi curled home his free kick 11 minutes later before Gerard Pique put Barcelona ahead just after halftime. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scott victorious with conventional-length putter

Adam Scott won the Honda Classic and put to rest any notion that his career would suffer with a short putter.

In a tight duel with Sergio Garcia for the entire round Sunday at PGA National, Scott stayed out of the water and closed with an even-par 70 for a one-shot victory. It was his first title since Colonial in May 2014, and his first time winning with a conventional putter since 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

City claims League Cup on penalties

Manchester City added another League Cup to the growing collection of trophies under its Abu Dhabi ownership, beating Liverpool in a penalty shootout with Yaya Toure converting the clinching spot kick on Sunday.

And on a day of double delight for the Manchester clubs, United damaged Arsenal's Premier League title challenge after new star Marcus Rashford scored twice in a 3-2 win. The 18-year-old striker has now scored four goals in his first two starts for United.

Second-place Tottenham rallied to beat Swansea 2-1 to trim the gap to surprise league leader Leicester to two points.

Man City manager Manuel Pellegrini claimed a third trophy in his three-year tenure that is ending this summer.

City and Liverpool played to a 1-1 draw after extra time, with the former winning the shootout 3-1 at Wembley Stadium. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Roasted Cod Provençal

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This flaky cod sits in a thick and delicious sauce featuring herbs and olives. Trust us. It's all about the olives.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

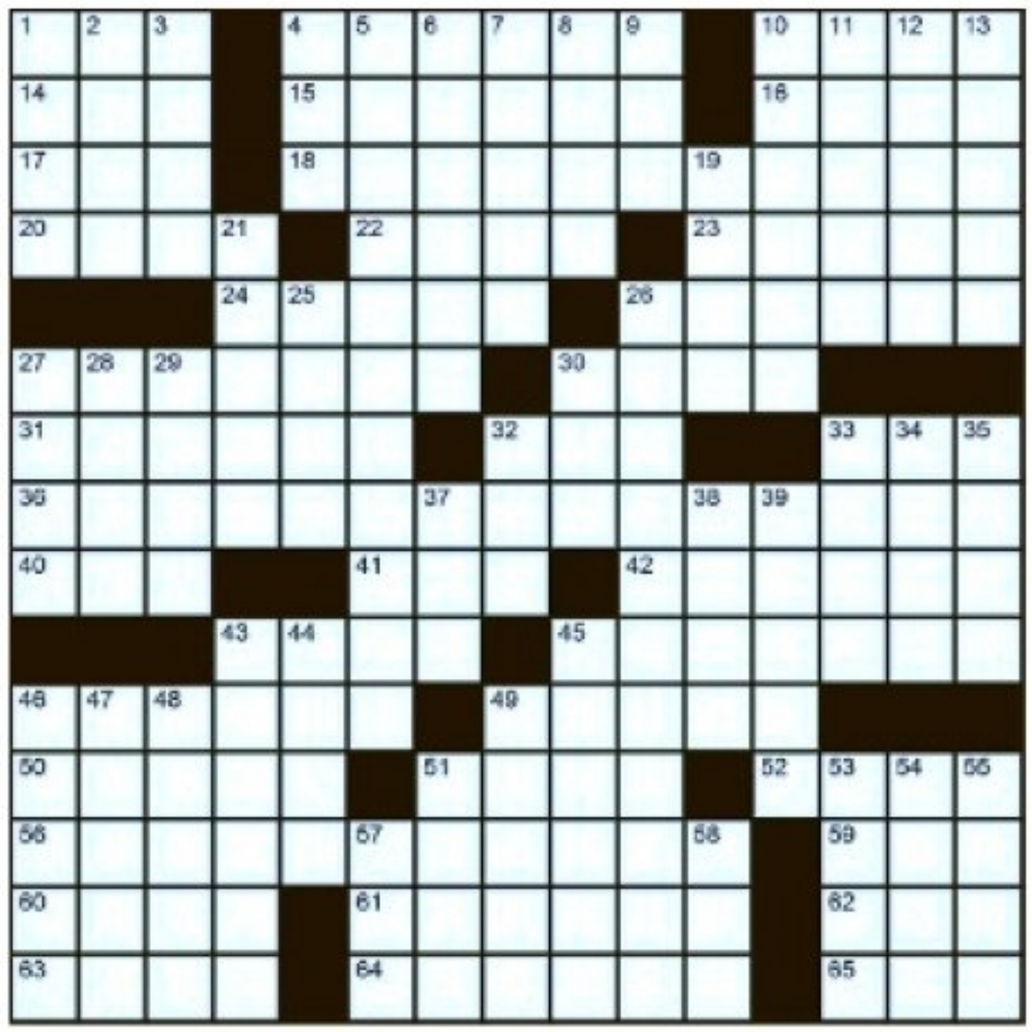
Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 bulb of fennel, trimmed and thinly sliced (retain the fennel fronds for garnish)
- 1 red pepper, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1 can of tomatoes (28 oz.)
- 1/3 cup black olives, pitted
- 4 filets of cod

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. In a large skillet, warm olive oil over medium heat. Toss in the garlic, onions and fennel and sauté for about 5 minutes until vegetables begin to soften. Add the peppers and the herbs and cook for another 3 minutes.
3. Add the tomatoes and olives. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up the tomatoes. Allow to simmer and thicken, about 10 minutes.
4. Pour the sauce into a baking dish. Lay the cod over the sauce and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until fish is flaky.
5. Sprinkle finely chopped fennel fronds over top.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Premium auto maker
4. Clash hit: "Rock the _"
10. Sitar song
14. Regret
15. Woolly animal
16. Biblical grandson
17. Publicize
18. Leap Year: Today is February _-_
20. Mr. Kinnear
22. Tibet's shaggy animals
23. Rinse with a solvent
24. Connects
26. Loonie
27. Turns in the coupons
30. Lots
31. "That may be, however...": 2 wds.
32. There: Latin
33. Univ. paper
36. BC: _ _ National Park
40. Tic-Tac-Toe losing line
41. Lana Del Who?
42. Canuck rocker Neil's family
43. Stairway feature
45. Madrid language
46. Arrow-throwing matchmaker's
49. Bogus
50. Fennel-like flavour
51. Ben _ (Sci-Fi author of Return to Mars)
52. _ Canal
56. Passes-processing person: 2 wds.
59. Blue/orange jerseys NHL team [acronym]
60. Theatrical opening, _ _
61. Insight
62. 'Fall' suffix (Misconception)
63. Midday
64. Fido can't stay here: 2 wds.
65. Caribbean music

DOWN
1. Talk big
2. "The Ghost & Mrs. _"
3. Jewel's "You _ Meant for Me"
4. Meower
5. 1984 Los Angeles: Olympic kayak champion who raised an eagle feather when he and teammate Hugh Fisher won gold for Canada: 2 wds.
6. Verbalizes
7. Does depositing
8. Parliament statutes
9. Barnyard bale
10. Showbiz personality, Charles Nelson _
11. Invalidate
12. "Something's _ Give" (2003)
13. Peter of '60s pop duo Peter and Gordon
19. Vegas illuminator
21. Ms. Close
25. 'Class' suffix (Most elegant)
26. Discovery Channel science show: 2 wds.
27. San _, Italy
28. Rachael Ray's lettered liquid
29. Two: French
30. British honour [acronym]
32. Crawling plant
33. Rice-A-_
34. Mail deliveries, e.g.
35. Musician/radio personality John
37. Seafood, to some
38. "_, _ I was saying..."
39. Songs
43. Co-host of #26-Down, Dan _
44. "Zip-_-_-Doo-Dah"
45. "I need heeeelp!": 2 wds.
46. The Settlers of _ (Board game)
47. Canadian food company since 1917
48. Prefix to 'graph' (Cave drawing, for instance)
49. Be a pair of glasses coming in from the cold: 2 wds.
51. Betty Crocker salad topping soya bit
53. Irish actress Ms. O'Connor's
54. 15th-century Flemish painter, Jan van _
55. Ms. Tong, co-host of the Canadian show at #26-Down
57. Beige
58. Belonging to Memphis' li'l state

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
What someone is offering you may seem like a good deal but is it really? Hold out for more because you are way above average in skill, commitment and intelligence. They need you more than you need them.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
There are times in life when it is better to give up than to struggle on with a thankless task and this may well be one of them. Take the hint and move on to something else.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Stop worrying what other people think about you. You are who you are and no one has the right to demand you be anything else. Don't listen to those advising you otherwise.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't just believe what other people tell you today — find out for yourself. Most likely you will quickly see through their lies and distortions and arrive at a truth that is very different to what they wanted you to believe.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The news you get today won't be as bad as you feared, so look on the bright side. If you make a habit of seeing things in a negative light then they may become self-fulfilling.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Forget about making changes because you're still heading in the right direction. Contrary to what some people might be telling you, your life does not need a major rethink.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Financial and career concerns seem to be taking up a lot of your time and emotional energy. You know from past experience that it will all come right in the end. Find reasons to smile, and make others smile too.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It may be true that your working life is in a bit of a rut but don't go doing anything drastic just yet. You are advised to sit back, relax and watch (and laugh at) the passing parade.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Spell out in plain and simple language what it is you need done. If you leave room for doubt you can be sure that someone will get it wrong and cause unnecessary mayhem.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more you try to analyze your current situation the more complicated it looks, so why not take the hint and let it be? Focus on things you feel more comfortable with.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you don't slow down you could end up falling down! Your emotional and intellectual energy may be unlimited but your physical energy is not. Don't burn yourself out.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
It's important that you treat someone fairly, even if they do not fully deserve it. They have broken the rules, but if you look at their situation with a little more sympathy you may find they did not have much of a choice.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		9						
	7		3					
4		2		6				1
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FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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4	9	7	5	2	8	6	1	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	4	8
6	8	1	9	4	3	7	5	2
2	4	3	1	8	6	5	9	7
7	6	9	2	5	4	3	8	1
8	1	5	3	9	7	2	6	4
9	5	8	7	1	2	4	3	6
3	7	4	8	6	5	1	2	9
1	2	6	4	3	9	8	7	5

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